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| (51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C07D 237/14, 401/06, 403/06, 237/18, 409/06, 413/06, 405/06, A61K 31/50, C07F 11/00 | | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 99/10331 (43) International Publication Date: 4 March 1999 (04.03.99) |
| (21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/16479 (22) International Filing Date: 10 August 1998 (10.08.98) | | (74) Agents: WARD, Michael, J. et al.; Abbott Laboratories, CHAD 0377/AP6D-2, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-3500 (US). | |
| (30) Priority Data: 08/917,023 22 August 1997 (22.08.97) US Not furnished 5 August 1998 (05.08.98) US | | (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). | |
| (71) Applicant: ABBOTT LABORATORIES [US/US]; CHAD 0377/AP6D-2, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064-3500 (US). | | Published <i>With international search report.</i> | |
| (72) Inventors: BLACK, Lawrence, A.; 1173 Tamarack Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048-3647 (US). BASHA, Anwer; 41 Heron Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045 (US). KOLASA, Teodozyj; 118 Walden, Lake Villa, IL 60046 (US). KORT, Michael, E.; 507 N. Green Avenue, Lake Bluff, IL 60044-1520 (US). LIU, Huaqing; 1173 Forums Court #2A, Wheeling, IL 60090 (US). McCARTY, Catherine, M.; 231 Freeman Street, Brookline, MA 02446 (US). PATEL, Meena, V.; Tower 3, Apartment #3703, 605 W. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60661 (US). ROHDE, Jeffrey, J.; Apartment D-1, 1621 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 (US). | | (54) Title: ARYLPYRIDAZINONES AS PROSTAGLANDIN ENDOPEROXIDE H SYNTHASE BIOSYNTHESIS INHIBITORS | |
| (57) Abstract The present invention describes pyridazinone compounds which are cyclooxygenase (COX) inhibitors, and in particular, are selective inhibitors of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX/2). COX-2 is the inducible isoform associated with inflammation, as opposed to the constitutive isoform, cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1) which is an important "housekeeping" enzyme in many tissues, including the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and the kidneys. The selectivity of these compounds for COX-2 minimizes the unwanted GI and renal side-effects seen with currently marketed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). | | | |